

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended to emphasize the focus of the invention, and claim 9 is cancelled. Claims 10-18 are newly presented. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of such amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Havard, U.S. Patent 5,483,034. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.<sup>1</sup>

Havard discloses a method for fabricating duct arms used in turbojet engines. See, for example, column 2, lines 18-41 of Havard. Claim 1, on the other hand, is amended to specify – consistent with the preamble of the claim as it was originally presented – that the invention is a method for manufacturing stator or rotor blades. Accordingly, Applicant traverses the rejection and requests that it be withdrawn.

Regarding new claims 10-18, independent claim 10 (from which claims 11-18 depend) specifies that the laser-welding is conducted “along one single continuous line of laser-welding.” In Havard, in contrast, the welding is conducted along two lines of welding. Applicant submits that the method recited in these claims would be faster and less expensive than that disclosed in Havard. Furthermore, the more times one welds on the same spot, the more the microstructure in the material will change; there will be more congregation of waste; etc. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Havard does not anticipate or render obvious claims 10-18, either.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claim are in condition for allowance. Timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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<sup>1</sup> To the extent claim 9 is cancelled, the rejection is moot.

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The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, Order No. 7589.155.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



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